

TO: SAC, WFO (100-40068)  
FROM: SA [redacted]  
SUBJECT: BILLY JAMES HARGIS  
Misc. Information Concerning -SM

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Date received 3/22/62	Received from (name or symbol number) [redacted] Source	Received by [redacted]
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Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☐ in person ☒ by telephone ☐ by mail ☒ orally ☐ recording device ☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date  
Dictated \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Transcribed 3/22/62 by [redacted]  
Authenticated 3/27/62  
by Informant

Date of Report

3/22/62

Date(s) of activity

3/21/62

b6  
b7C

Brief description of activity or material

Billy James Hargis Meeting at Washington,  
D.C.

File where original is located if not attached

[redacted] b2  
b7D

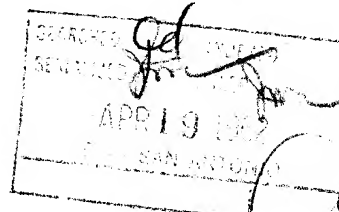
Remarks:

This informant has furnished reliable information  
in the past.

- 2 - WFO
- 1 - 157-1 American Nazi Party
- 1 - Minneapolis (RM)(Info)
- 1 - Oklahoma City (RM)(Info)
- 1 - San Francisco (RM)(Info)
- 1 - Los Angeles (RM)(Info)
- 1 - Indianapolis (RM)(Info)
- 1 - Dallas (RM)(Info)
- 1 - San Antonio (RM)(Info)
- 1 - El Paso (RM)(Info)
- 1 - Cleveland (RM)(Info)
- 1 - Cincinnati (RM)(Info)
- 1 - Newark (RM)(Info)
- 1 - New York (RM)(Info)
- 1 - Richmond (RM)(Info)

CEG:fmk  
(15)

Block Stamp



"March 22, 1962

"There was a meeting of conservatives led by Billy Hargis on 3/21/62 at the Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. The meeting lasted from about 7:30pm until 12:20am. The room was set up with about 10 tables, with 8 or 10 people at each table. There were about 100 people there.

"Prior to the meeting the American Nazi Party passed out literature unfavorable to HARGIS. The literature indicated that HARGIS raises money for himself and uses religion as a shield.

"Almost every one present represented some conservative group.

"Everyone present was white.

"About 10% of those present appeared to be young dedicated men who were able to do a job when they were given something to do. They appeared to be men who didn't go for too much verbiage.

"There was one Texan present who repeatedly said 'that's right' in a loud voice, much like the audience response at an old-fashioned camp meeting. The others at the meeting turned around to look at this man when he responded with 'that's right'.

"The only reference to the FBI came near the close of the meeting, when Hargis said that his friend, Matt Cvetic, who formerly worked with the FBI, and who had been on the stage with Hargis in Los Angeles recently, had told Hargis that the FBI was doing a wonderful job and knew the identities of 99.9 per cent of all the communists in the U.S. Hargis then asked why the communists who are known have not been arrested, since the Internal Security Act (ISA) of 1950 is now the law of the land. He said that Attorney General KENNEDY, for whom the FBI works, has said it is difficult to prosecute the communists under this act. Hargis recommended that a letter campaign to the Attorney General advocating action against these communists under the ISA be organized.

"Hargis was the chairman of the meeting. On the stage with him were the following people:

"General Montie (ph) \_\_\_\_\_ Bonnfeller (ph)  
Edward Hunter (ph)  
Dr. Gorman or Garman (ph)

"Benjamin Gitlow  
General Charles Willoughby  
Congressman John Rousselot  
Congressman Berry (ph) - From South Dakota (came late)

"Rev. Hargis spoke first about the necessity for cooperation of conservatives on a grass-roots level. He described the meeting as an organizational meeting.

"The next speaker was Benjamin Gitlow, who spoke about the fight against communism.

"The next speaker was General Willoughby, who spoke on foreign affairs.

"The next speaker was Edward Hunter, who spoke on the psychological aspects of the contest between conservatives and communism.

"The next speaker was General Bonnfeller (ph), 1001 Connecticut Ave. N.W. He spoke on foreign aid and invited everyone to write and he would send them information on how much was spent in foreign aid. He said that the one hundred six billion dollars spent on foreign aid up the 1962 budget was undermining the country and that the recipients of this foreign aid could band together and ruin this country. He said that the cancellation of the B-70 Bomber was due to communist pressure.

"The next speaker was Congressman Berry (ph) of South Dakota, who spoke about a liberal booklet entitled something like 'Thirty-five Congressmen on Foreign Policy-The Liberal Viewpoint.' He said this booklet gave nine points, the major point being the recognition of Red China. He told those present to get after Congress and see if their representatives were for or against the points in this booklet.

"The next speaker was Congressman Rousselot, who was the best speaker and whose speech had the most impact. He received two standing ovations from the audience. The main point of his speech was the trend toward socialism in Congress and the Government. He also mentioned that the Americans for Democratic Action and the AFL-CIO were working toward socialism. He also said that Senator Humphrey was for socialism. He advocated that the conservatives take the initiative against this trend in government.

"The next speaker was Edward Hunter, who mentioned the National Indignation Committee and the present status of

"communism. He also spoke against Drew Pearson. He said that the common enemies of conservatives were the communists and the anti-anti-communists. His speech dealt with methods of fighting the destructive effects of these common enemies. This was Hunter's second speech, in which he generally summed up the status of the conservative's fight against communism.

"This ended the formal speakers at the meeting. Rev. Hargis spoke briefly between each speaker. After the speech by Hunter the meeting was open to the floor.

"Rev. Hargis introduced a Dr. Ramsey, M.D. a representative of the American Society of Physicians and Surgeons. Ramsey did not speak.

"Dr. Ramsey in turn introduced George McCrary (PH) of Indiana. McCrary represented the Citizen's Committee of Research in Indianapolis, Indiana. McCrary said that this group had instituted a law suit against the Attorney General which stopped the exchange of tractors for prisoners held by the Cubans. McCrary said that conservatives need a national network of communication and dissemination of information.

"The next speaker was Jack Armstrong, from Texas, 105c  
Head of the National Indignation Committee. He advocated support of H.R. 421, which advocated that the U.S. not train 270  
any other country's military nor furnish any planes. He said this matter was now in a committee and that each congressman should be asked how they stand on this matter.

"The next speaker was Bob Knight (ph) of Austin, Texas who spoke about Knight's Committee on Readiness to Fight.

"The next speaker was a young man, about 22 or 24, from the Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J. He spoke about the committees of correspondence which were utilized prior to the Revolutionary War. He said that there would be a central library and mailing list of conservatives. He said that he had spent a lot of money and time trying to get such a list.

"A woman, who said she was the head of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, got up and said that there was such a list available. She said that there were 117 groups affiliated with the American Coalition and that the office was at 1025 Connecticut Ave. N.W. She said that they had a mailing list of 20,000 on plates with another three or five thousand names not yet entered. She said the list was up to date and was available at any time.

"After this woman spoke, Rev. Hargis said he knew of the American Coalition group and said that they were doing a wonderful job. He thought that they could be the central group needed.

"The next speaker was Linda Wood (ph) of Cleveland, Ohio, representing the Organization to Fight Communism. She said this group had 110 paid members who all paid \$5 to send her to this meeting. She mentioned that she received a letter from Senator Young of Ohio which was very derogatory toward her and her organization.

"Next, two young men from the Nationalist Party, New York City, spoke and said that the purpose of their group is to picket and give communists trouble at every meeting communists hold. They said that the communications media were in the hands of the Left and that the conservatives must have their own media or do something about the control of the communications media by the Left. These two men appeared to be very dedicated young men.

"The next speaker was Merle Horvan (ph) or Harvan from Indiana, an attorney. He said that he has been working against communists since 1934. He said that there must be a method to organize all conservative groups. There must be a coordinating group for U.S. conservatives.

"The next speaker represented the State Defenders of Virginia. He appealed for money to set up a central office through which to work. He thought that there should be a wealthy man who would be willing to back the conservatives like some rich men back the communists. He mentioned the For Foundation in this regard.

"The next speaker was a lady who described herself as an 'unreconstructed North Carolinian'. She advocated joining the political party of one's choice at home and work at the grass roots for conservative ideals.

"The next speaker was a Minneapolis, Minn., man who advocated the separation of the Rightists from everyone else. This man seemed to advocate the third party approach.

"The next speaker was a man named Smith from McLean, Va., who said that the only way to control the communications media was to buy a TV station or a newspaper. He said that if conservatives owned a TV station or newspaper, they could control the representatives in Congress from that area.

"At this point, Rev. Hargis spoke about his troubles with the communications field. He mentioned difficulty in getting time and trouble given to sponsors. He spoke against Drew Pearson. He mentioned that Lamar Newcombe (ph), of Radio Station WFAX, helps in this area. He also mentioned H.L. Hunt and D.B. Lewis (ph) as real people and close friends of his. He said he never got a dollar from either of these people but that they helped him. He mentioned as close associates, Maynard Lee and Dr. Comber (ph).

"At this point in the proceedings, the speakers on the stage then added to their remarks.

"Congressman Rousselot gave an analysis of the status of the United Nations and termed it communist dominated. He advocated support of H.R. 9567.

"General Willoughby then spoke and said that there were thousands of refugees in Europe who would be willing to fight communism. He advocated the use of these refugees as troops rather than sending our troops to Europe.

"At this point in the proceedings Hargis took over and said that Attorney General Kennedy was quoted in 'World' a weekly magazine, as saying that it was difficult to prosecute communists under the ISA of 1950. It was at this point that the good work of the FBI was mentioned and a letter campaign to the Attorney General was recommended. Hargis said Attorney General Kennedy was quoted in the magazine as making the statement in answer to a question on why the communists have not been prosecuted.

"At the end of the meeting it was announced that those present would receive a mailing on the decisions made as a result of the meeting.

"It was decided that they would meet quarterly. Their meetings would be closed to the public and the press. The next meeting was tentatively set to be held in Washington, D.C., but no date was set.

"It was announced that the speakers at the meeting were to select a steering committee to organize future meetings.

"At the end of the meeting Rev. Hargis spoke about Richard Nixon and Mr. Nixon's standing on the John Birch Society. He said that Mr. Nixon would be defeated in California.

This memorandum has been compared with the original statement and it is correct in substance. All necessary action which should be taken in connection with this information has been taken.

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